

5; capsule subglobose, 4 mm. in diameter, circumscissile at the middle; seeds black, 0.8 mm. wide, rounded-tuberculate.

Type from Cerro San Antonio, Oaxaca, Mexico, July 26, 1906 (*C. Conzatti 1425*, type; 3931).

✓ ***Portulaca mexicana*** P. Wilson, sp. nov.

A fleshy perennial herb, with tuberous roots, and ascending or spreading branches, hairy in tufts in the axils of the leaves; leaves often persistent, the blades terete, linear, 5-9 mm. long, 1.5-2.2 mm. broad, acutish or obtuse at the apex, short-petioled; flowers terminal in clusters of 2-4, surrounded by brownish hairs and an involucre of 9-12 leaves; calyx-lobes orbicular or triangular-orbicular, 3.5-4 mm. long, 3.6-4 mm. broad; corolla-lobes obovate, 4.5-5.3 mm. long, 2.5-3 mm. broad; stamens about 14; style-lobes 3 or 4; capsule ovoid, 4-4.2 mm. high, 3.5 mm. in diameter, circumscissile near the base; seeds 0.6-0.7 mm. in diameter, minutely spiny-tubercled.

Type collected in a lava field, Tizapan, Mexico, July 30, 1901 (*C. G. Pringle 8576*).

✓ NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN.

BOOK REVIEW

COLORADO PLANT LIFE*

Not long ago a resident of Colorado asked me where to find non-technical information about the flowers and trees of Colorado. Fortunately, I had just received a copy of Ramaley's *Colorado Plant Life* and lost no time in recommending it. The book is neither a manual of the Colorado flora, nor a mere list, nor a textbook, but a distinct and apparently a successful attempt to select from the great mass of botanical knowledge a series of facts in which any person may well be interested and which will do much to answer the numerous botanical questions which arise with every intelligent observing person. It has sometimes been said that botany as a field of study in our higher schools lacks the popularity of the humanistic subjects because so much of it deals with phases of plant life with which the student never comes in contact outside the class-room, while his

* Ramaley, Francis. *Colorado Plant Life*. Pages viii + 299. 133 figures, 3 plates in color. 1927. The University of Colorado, Boulder. \$2.00.

probable future experience with plants, plant life, and plant products is left unprovided for. Rameley's book fills this need in an admirable manner without going into technicalities and with the bold and wise omission of many important but strictly scientific matters. Mushrooms, for example, receive about a page; no mention is made of mycelium or basidiospores, but one paragraph discusses their edibility and a second describes fairy rings.

The book opens with a general discussion of plant sociology, including adaptations, ecological classification, and general relations of plants to the environment. This is followed by a discussion of altitude in its relation to vegetation, which is a matter of prime interest to the people of such a mountainous state. Special chapters then discuss the plant life of streamsides and ditch banks, which in the irrigated districts are often the sole remaining habitats for wild flowers, of mountain parks, of mountain lakes, of the plains, of the mesas and foothills, of the mountains, and of the forests. Another chapter discusses what aspects of vegetation may be seen from a railway train or an automobile. These all give the author an opportunity to bring in brief discussions of agriculture, irrigation, tree-planting, zonation and succession, soil acidity and peat-formation, and numerous other subjects. These are never forced on the reader, but are introduced non-didactically as a natural result of the preceding discussion. Other chapters deal with color in plants, including remarks about starch manufacture, insect pollination, and a list of the more conspicuous wild flowers classified by color; the life of a plant, including respiration, transpiration, growth, inheritance, evolution, and other physiological processes; the architecture of plants, in which anatomy is taken up in more detail; and flowers, fruits, and seeds. The final chapter presents a brief conspectus of the whole plant kingdom and closes with an historical account of the development of botany in the state. Appendices give a key to the trees of Colorado, a list of the publications of the Colorado Vegetation Studies, a catalog of the early spring flora around Boulder, and a short list of botanical books recommended for high-schools and public libraries. The numerous illustrations include figures of plants or their parts in zinc, of Colorado vegetation in halftone, and of numerous wild flowers in color.